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Claims

- 1. Physical layer circuit for an interface circuit to a first communication bus (7), the physical layer circuit 5 comprising a buffer memory (22) for node-ID packets received via a bridge circuit from a second communication bus (8), characterised in that the physical layer circuit (21) comprises configuration means (24) that enable to either configure the physical layer circuit (21) as a bridge portal physical layer circuit supporting the 10 bridge functionality by buffering said node-ID packets in said buffer memory (22) or else configure the physical layer circuit as a standard physical layer circuit not supporting bridge functionality by disabling the buffering of said node-ID packets. 15
 - 2. Physical layer circuit according to claim 1, the configuration means (24) comprising a configuration register having one or more register places dedicated to the enabling or disabling of the node-ID packet buffering.
 - 3. Physical layer circuit according to claim 2, wherein the configuration register is a read/write register.

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4. Physical layer circuit according to claim 2 or 3, wherein a pin (CON) of the physical layer circuit (21) is connected with the register place dedicated to the enabling or disabling of the node-ID packet buffering.

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5. Physical layer circuit according to claim 4, wherein the pin (CON) of the physical layer circuit is positioned at a place where a standard physical layer circuit not supporting the bridge functionality has a power supply pin, namely ground pin (AGND) or voltage supply pin

 (AV_{DD}) .

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- 6. Physical layer circuit according to one of the previous claims, wherein the first and second communication bus (7, 8) is an IEEE1394 bus and the bridge (9) is a wireless bridge that performs wireless communication according to the Hiperlan/2 standard.
- 7. Physical layer circuit according to one of the previous claims, comprising a number of n ports (23) for the first 10 communication bus (7), $n \in [2,3, ...]$.
- 8. Interface device for a first communication bus (7) comprising a physical layer circuit (21) according to 15 claim 7, wherein said physical layer circuit (21) is configured as a bridge portal physical layer circuit with the buffering of node-ID packets being enabled, characterised in that at maximum n-1 of the ports (23) for the first communication bus (7) are connected to corresponding sockets for bus cable plug insertion. 20